

Town News

Selectmen Weigh Open Space Funding

AMHERST - The Board of Selectmen at their November 30 meeting heard recommendations on a warrant article to continue funding Town purchases of open space for conservation and recreation. Peter Rotch, Chairman of the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC), recommended that the Board sponsor a warrant article to be included on the 2010 Town Meeting Warrant to continue bonding the purchase of open space.

The current bond authorization for \$5.5 million was approved by the voters in 1995 and expires this coming March. Mr. Rotch reported that the OSAC has been busy examining 19 properties. Some properties did not meet the criteria for open space acquisition. In other cases, satisfactory terms with potential sellers could not be negotiated. In other cases, the Selectmen or voters rejected the OSAC recommendations.

Despite these past difficulties, OSAC, the Conservation Commission, the Amherst Planning Board, and the independent Amherst Land Trust all support extending the bond authorization. Mr. Rotch proposed that the 2010 warrant article include:

Reauthorize \$3 million in bonding authority, the authority be non-lapsing, the requirements for two public hearings and ACC and APB recommendation be continued, the present ratio of recreation and conservation investment be continued, and the provision for a number of petitioners to place a specific acquisition on the ballot be continued.

The number of petition signatures required to force a ballot vote was discussed by several attendees. It is felt that the Martin land purchase for conservation was lost as a result of 25 petitioners calling for it to be placed on the ballot. James Bowen, vice-chairman of the ACC and Robert Heaton of the Recreation Commission both noted that the petition provision places a cloud over all negotiations with sellers who may not be able or willing to see potentially whether a purchase can be consummated. Elizabeth Overholt suggested that if a provision for petitioners is included in the proposed warrant that the required number of signatures be raised to two percent of the registered voters at the previous election.

Arnold Rosenblatt, chairman of the Amherst Planning Board, said it is important to have an article with substantial funding authority to support OSAC negotiations. He went on to say that throughout the public process of preparing a revised Amherst Master Plan, the desire and need to protect open space rang clear. Mr. Rosenblatt stated that now, while the economy is depressed, is the time to be protecting. When the economy turns up, development will accelerate and consume more of today's open spaces.

No one present disputed that OSAC has worked hard for the benefit of the town and that its efforts should be continued.

► Garden Club January Meeting

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tion entitled, "Forest Gardens".

This first Thursday of the New Year meeting of the garden club will begin at 9:00 AM with refreshments and social time followed by a brief business meeting, and then the "Forest Gardens" talk at 10:30 AM. Meetings are held in the Amherst

Congregational Church located at 11 Church Street. The Amherst Garden Club monthly meetings are free and open to all, so come and bring a friend! If you have any questions about the program, please contact Susan Stefanec, 673-0890.

► SHS Community Council

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students are given trust and responsibility in the accordance of the Souhegan Six, and are expected to live up to it. "I don't think anyone I know is for the new cell phone policy," said one Junior.

The cell phone proposal was discussed over quite a few Community Council meetings this year. Common concerns included the need for parents to be able to contact their children during school hours, the right of students to be allowed to use cell phones during breaks, and the logistics of having kids use the phones in the office whenever they need to make a call. One group of students submitted an amendment to the proposal that was considered as well, which suggested that cell phones be allowed during lunch breaks and free periods. The students seemed to be happier about this version, but it was criticized for being too similar to the loose cell phone rule presently in place at Souhegan, and did not pass. Community Council voted on Thompson's original proposal in November, and the proposal failed with twenty-five votes against it, six in favor of it.

The second proposal that the Community Council has been considering is the Later Start proposal, something that Souhegan has thought about for a while. The Alternative Start Committee, a group

made up of representative members from each district school board, was formed about a year ago to research adolescent sleep patterns, particularly the evidence that sleep deficits cause greater instances of depression, drug and alcohol use, car accidents, lateness, drop outs, and behavioral issues. Mary Lou Mullins and Jeanie Ludt, who were both on the Committee, brought their case to Community Council in October. The idea was that the start time at all Amherst and Mont Vernon schools would be moved thirty minutes later than it currently is, so that the students at Souhegan would have more time to sleep. Community Council would have considered this proposal and then voted on what to recommend to the school boards. However, the proposal was dropped in November because the Amherst School Board voted it down, and because the SAU Board didn't feel that it was beneficial to continue with the issue without their agreement, which was necessary because of implications for bus transportation.

Anyone who is interested is always welcome and encouraged to attend any Community Council meeting. The meetings take place every Monday in room 227 at Souhegan, at 2:15 in the afternoon, or 6:00 pm; the time can be found on the school calendar.

Obituary

Madelene R. Grasset

Longtime Amherst Resident and Volunteer

Madelene R. Grasset, 93, longtime resident of Amherst, NH, died December 2, 2009 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Nashua, NH.

She was born in Lowell, MA on January 27, 1916, a daughter of the late Charles and Nettie Roby.

Mrs. Grasset was raised and educated in Amherst and graduated from Amherst High School.

She had been employed for the former First National Store and P & C Store, Milford and had also worked at Moulton's Store in Amherst.

Mrs. Grasset enjoyed volunteering at the St. John Neumann Day Away Program, knitting, sewing, cooking and most especially spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth W. Grasset, their daughter, Judy Webster and four brothers, Granville, Donald, James and Raymond Roby.

Family members include her son and daughter-in-law, Robert & Lee

Grasset of Amherst, NH; a son-in-law, Harold Webster of Milford, NH; five grandchildren, Kenneth & Mary Grasset of Bedford, NH, Kurtis & Jennifer Grasset of Hancock, NH, Kevin Grasset and his partner, Elyata Tonnesen of Amherst, NH, Jodi & Kevin Harvey of Milford, NH, Danielle Brown and her fiancé, Matt Bradley of Wilton, NH; 12 Great Grandchildren; a sister, Geneva Merrill of Bedford, NH; several nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery, Milford. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Pillsbury Home, 95 High Street, Milford, NH 03055 or The Day Away Program, c/o St. John Neumann Church, 708 Milford Road, Merrimack, NH 03054. Smith & Heald Funeral Home, Milford, is handling arrangements. To leave an online condolence, please go to www.smith-heald.com

Boy Scout Thanksgiving Feast

By CALEB DARLING

Wouldn't it be fun to have the kids cook the Thanksgiving feast for a change? For parents of boys from Troop 22, this became a reality. The boys camped out the weekend before Thanksgiving at Camp Anne Jackson. On Saturday, they started cooking the feast. The entire meal - complete with cranberry sauce, gravy, and all the traditional fixings - was prepared, in the great outdoors, by the boys. They made an oven out of tin foil, chicken wire, and metal

stakes to cook the turkeys. Cornbread, squash, a German chocolate cake, and rice pudding were cooked in Dutch ovens, over coals, by the boys with adult supervision. Not all our time was spent cooking; we also played fun games like German patrol. The fun is not limited to us, however. All boys between 11 and 17 are invited to join the Boy Scouts of America. For more information, you can visit www.amhersttroop22.org or e-mail scoutmaster@amhersttroop22.org. We look forward to seeing you!

► Winter Salads

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ferently in winter, and composed vs. simple salads. She will show how easy it is to make your own salad dressings and how to match them to the type of salad you are making. Spring and summer are not the only time of year you can have sparkling flavors on your plate! Samplings will be provided, including some unusual ideas for the salad bowl.

Elizabeth Skipper of The Everyday Epicure in Amherst earned her professional chef's diploma from Madeleine Kamman, a French chef whose aunt owned a Michelin-starred restaurant in France, and whose own restaurant in Boston was considered by many to be one of the finest in the country. Chef Skipper has lived

in Europe and continues to take cooking classes wherever she travels. A member of the US Personal Chefs Association and the Weston A. Price Foundation, she believes in the importance of traditional, local and sustainable, not just delicious foods. She has been delighting clients with her personal chef services in and around Amherst since 2006, and has taught cooking in the area for over twenty years.

The event is free and open to the public. You can register by calling 673-2288, emailing library@amherst.lib.nh.us or by visiting our website at www.amherst.lib.nh.us and selecting "Calendar of Events."

► Blue Hill Brass

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Washington Hotel in New Hampshire; the Fryeburg Fair; Bates College; Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair; the Yarmouth Clam Festival; and, Heritage Days in Bath, Maine.

This Blue Hill Brass performance is sure to make you smile! Their musical program ranges from works such as Nessun Dorma by Puccini, to Ragtime Dance by Joplin, to Semper Fidelis by Sousa. As this is a very special event, Blue Hill Brass will be playing from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. with a brief intermission including refreshments.

So excited you want to sign up for the whole series? Just contact us and

mark your calendars for February 7 for America's Musical Heritage: Songs of New England with Karol Carroll and Kathryn Southworth; March 21 with Kate Chadbourn in Concert; and, April 18 with the Gloucester Hornpipe & Clog Society. All events are free and open to the public. To register for any or all of these programs, please call the Amherst Town Library at 673-2288, email library@amherst.lib.nh.us, or visit the Library's web site at http://www.amherst.lib.nh.us and click on the calendar icon, labeled "Calendar of Events" on the homepage.

Amherst Garden Club

Memory Tree 2009 Remembrances

The Amherst Garden Club thanks everyone who contributed to the 2009 Memory Tree. Remembering those we have lost with the twinkling white lights during the holidays, has become a town and family tradition. We are happy to announce that the donations will go to SHARE, a local non profit organization, for their "SHARE Christmas, helping families for the holidays.

In Memory of loved ones from the:

Copson Family
T. F. Dailey Family
Ronald Dean Family
Arnold Dickinson Family
James Mc Adams Family
Carolyn & Jim Quinn Family
Robert A. Schmucker, Jr. Family
Paul Spiess Family
Tindall Family

And Individuals:

Lee Andreand
David Balfour
Alison (Werner) Barton
Sande Beede
Dennis Bishop
Suzanne Blakeman
Dorothy Boettcher
Brenda Boswell
Jane Boyle
Linda Bradbury
Dick & Jan Brams
Billy Burns
Helen Burns
William Burns
Peter Burrel
Barb Carib
Billy Carib
Donald Carper Sr.
Jimmy Carter
Kim Cates
Kim Cates
Norma Chesternan
Earl Coffee
Gavin Coffee
Jenny Coffee
Thomas Coughlin

Charlotte Crompton
Herb Crompton
Joana Dean
Eleanor Dickinson
Merritt L. Dilley
Mary Donovan
Roger Duchesne
Pat Duval
Val Evans
Else Finke
William Finke
Alda Fraser
Walton Fraser
Armen Garoian
Marie Garoian
Michael Goodwill
Michael Goodwill
Lavinia Goodwin
Roland Goodwin
Anita Greenwood
Gary Greenwood
B.H.
Helen Hadden
Doug Hall
Carolyn Harlander
John Logan
Bill Haughey
Dorothy Haviland
Glenn Haviland

Tom Head
Tom Head
Janice Hickey
Mabel Holschuh
Merrill Holschuh
Roger Hooper, Sr.
Helen Hoyer
James Hoyer
Walter Hrycuna
Mary Iaquinio
Melvin Johnson
Mary Julian
William Julian
Mildred Kiernan
Christopher Kirby
Dr. Robert E. Kennedy
Meghan Kraham
Marie Krosch
Otto Krosch
Brad Lambert
Raymond Lareau
Mary Loddes
William Lodes
Justine Loehr
Eileen Logan
John Logan
Scott MacEwen
Charles Manoogian
Esther Manoogian

Henry Manoogian
Pat Marsh-Thorell
Pierre Martin
Tom Martin
Rick Masucci
Ervin Mc Cullough
Isabel Mc Cullough
George Mc Cullough
Marion Mc Cullough
Roberta Mc Guire
Richard and Linda Merrill
Elisabeth Michaelis
William Michaelis
Kathie Morehouse
Randy Morse
Mary Murphey
James Murray
Helen Murray
Dorothy Nakamura
Rory O'Rourke
Rex Peace
David Penfold
Sally Penfold
Elinor Preble
Ruth Preble
Julia E. Prew
Robert H. Prew
Janet Reis

Phylis Riffel
Dr. Cedric Robinson
Nancy Robinson
Charles Rosse
Peter Rowan
Jan Saunders
Addi Schiaui
Lucille Schulz
Richard Schulz
Evan Schwager
Terry Shields
Fred Simmons
Louise Simmons
Edward Stanek
Ronald Stillman
Marlis Strathmann
Abigail Struss
Harold Struss
Shirley Thorell
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Carl A. Wheeler
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Pat Wise
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